



General Assembly

January Session, 2017

Committee Bill No. 602

LCO No. 5723



Referred to Committee on PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Introduced by:
(PD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE HUMANE
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS IN MUNICIPAL AND REGIONAL
SHELTERS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 3 of public act 14-205 is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) There is established a task force to study the humane treatment
4 of animals in municipal and regional shelters and other matters
5 concerning the operation of such municipal and regional shelters. The
6 task force shall consider: (1) Recommendations for the establishment of
7 standards for the humane treatment of animals in such shelters; (2)
8 existing education and training standards for animal control officers
9 on current license laws; (3) rules and regulations regarding and
10 penalties for (A) abuse, including, but not limited to, the failure to
11 provide animals with proper shelter, and (B) the failure to properly
12 confine animals; (4) the development of a system to track persons who
13 have been convicted of animal abuse in order to prevent such persons
14 from acquiring animals from shelters in other municipalities or states;
15 (5) the establishment of standards for such shelters to use when

16 evaluating potential adopters for such animals; (6) the establishment of
17 rules and responsibilities for volunteer groups that work with such
18 shelters and animal control officers; and (7) the creation of a
19 framework to coordinate the efforts of local humane organizations
20 with volunteer groups, foster groups and municipal and regional
21 animal shelters.

22 (b) In addition to the Commissioner of Agriculture or the
23 commissioner's designee, the task force shall consist of the following
24 members:

25 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
26 one of whom shall be a member of a local animal welfare advocacy
27 organization and one whom shall be a sworn officer of a municipal
28 police department;

29 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one
30 of whom shall be an animal control officer and one who shall be a
31 representative of the judicial branch;

32 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
33 Representatives, who shall be a chief elected official from a town with
34 a population of more than twenty-five thousand persons;

35 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be
36 a licensed veterinarian;

37 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
38 Representatives, who shall be a person who volunteers to work with
39 municipal animal shelters and animal control officers; and

40 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be
41 a chief elected official from a town with a population of twenty-five
42 thousand persons or less.

43 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
44 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member

45 of the General Assembly.

46 (d) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than
 47 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
 48 filled by the appointing authority.

49 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
 50 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force
 51 from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall
 52 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not
 53 later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

54 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
 55 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to local
 56 governments shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

57 (g) Not later than January 1, [2015] 2018, the task force shall submit
 58 a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
 59 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
 60 relating to local governments and the environment, in accordance with
 61 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force
 62 shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1,
 63 [2015] 2018, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	from passage	PA 14-205, Sec. 3

PD Joint Favorable

APP Joint Favorable